

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06
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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 L-03 STR-04 EURE-00 /089 W
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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 4636

INFO USDA/WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 36463

PASS: USDA FOR FRASER, WITCHER, ANDERSON, FAS

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR OECD

SUBJECT: JOINT WORKING PARTY (JWP) OF AGR. AND TRADE
COMMS, DEC. 8, 1976 - AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS WITH
U.S., CANADA AND JAPAN RE MEAT IMPORT QUOTA ACTIONS.

REF: (A) OECD PARIS 35893, (B) DO.35958, (C) DO.35962

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND DESCRIBED THEIR
DIFFICULT BALANCE OF PAYMENT POSITIONS, INVOKED
PRINCIPLE OF EFFICIENT RESOURCE USE, AND REGRETTED
RECENT US, CANADIAN AND JAPNESE BEEF IMPORT QUOTA
ACTIONS. US REPLY STRESSED CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR
VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS. CANADA STRESSED US
MARKET LEADERSHIP. JAPAN LABELED ITS 20,000 T QUOTA
"INITIAL". END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIA (HALL) AND NEW ZEALAND (LEE) DESCRIBED
THEIR DIFFICULT BALANCE OF PAYMENT POSITIONS, EXPLAINED
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THAT THEY WISHED TO USE THEIR RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY,

APPEALED TO COUNTRIES IN SOUNDER POSITION TO DO LIKEWISE, MENTIONED THE COMPLEMENTARY NATURE OF THEIR BEEF IN THE US MARKET (I.E. MANUFACTURING BEEF), AND REGRETTED US ACTION OF OCTOBER 9, CANADIAN QUOTA ACTION WHICH FOLLOWED AND JAPAN'S DRASTIC CUTBACK IN ITS SEMI-ANNUAL BEEF IMPORT QUOTA. AUSTRALIA, SPEAKING FIRST, MENTIONED CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON TO AGREE ON VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS. NEW ZEALAND DIDN'T.

3. THIS FACILITATED REPLY BY US (HIRSCH). CALLING QUOTA ACTION AN EPHEMERAL MEASURE HE POINTED OUT THAT IMPORTS FROM CANADA OF ALMOST 6 THOUSAND METRIC TONS IN OCTOBER HAD BEEN ALMOST TWICE THE AVERAGE MONTHLY JAN-SEP RATE. QUOTA ACTION HAD NOT REDUCED AUSTRALIA'S AND NEW ZEALAND'S EXPORTS TO US. DISCUSSING 1977 HE NOTED THAT THE ADJUSTED BASE QUANTITY (ABQ) IS 20 THOUSAND TONS MORE THAN FOR 1976. THAT HIGHER ABQ OF 528.6 THOUSAND TONS IS FORMING STATISTICAL BASE FOR NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON IN WASHINGTON. HE PRESENTED TIME-SERIES SHOWING INCREASING TREND OF ABQ'S AND ACTUAL IMPORTS. US HOPES FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WITH MAJOR SUPPLYING COUNTRIES. HE GAVE PROJECTIONS FROM CROM'S 1977 LIVESTOCK OUTLOOK PRESENTED AT NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE, WASH. D.C., NOV.17.

4. CANADA (BERNES) EXPLAINED ITS QUOTA ACTION AS TRIGGERED BY US. US REMINDED JWP OF DISCUSSION AT WP NO.4 MEETING, OCT. 25-27 WHICH HAD CONCLUSIVELY SHOWN INTERDEPENDENCE OF ACTIONS BY ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS AND IMPORTERS. IN THIS CONTEXT HE ASKED EC FOR ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION OF ITS IMMINENT BEEF IMPORT PROGRAM CHANGES. EC (BRUDERER) DID NOT GIVE SUBSTANTIVE REPLY.

5. DISCUSSION OF JAPANESE CUTBACKS WAS SHORT. JAPAN DEL LABELED GOJ 20,000 T IMPORT QUOTA FOR OCT-MARCH PERIOD AN INITIAL ALLOCATION WHICH MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY A SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOCATION.

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6. SECRETARIAT WILL DRAFT REPORT TO PARENT COMMITTEES TO BE APPROVED BY JWP DEC 10.

7. REFTELS NOT SENT TO POSTS OUTSIDE WASH, DEALT WITH AUSTRALIAN REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS.
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